GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4384
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2016
Silicosis Disease in Mining Areas
Meena Shri Arjunlal

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about of spreading of silicosis disease among the mining workers in the country including Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of workers affected/died due to the disease in the various mining areas of the country State/UT-wise including Udaipur, Rajasthan;

(c) whether the Government has provided compensation to the family members of deceased, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to control the spread of the disease and to protect the mining workers and their family members?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a): Yes.

(b): Silicosis is irreversible fibrosis of the lungs caused by inhalation of free silica dust. National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad estimates that about 3 million people working in various types of mines, ceramics, potteries, foundries, metal grinding, stone crushing, agate grinding, slate pencil industry etc., are occupationally exposed to free silica dust and are at potential risk of developing silicosis. As informed by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), approximately 2.5 million people are employed in more than 30,000 mines in Rajasthan, with more than 71,000 miners working in nearly 1,300 sandstone mines. Following sporadic reports of silicosis and deaths among the agate grinders of Jaipur, Rajasthan, NIOH carried out detailed clinico-radiological survey of agate workers which showed that the problem of silicosis was most severe among the agate grinders.
(c): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India, may take up the cases of persons, who are suffering from Silicosis and recommend to provide immediate medical relief to them through the concerned authorities. In case of deaths due to Silicosis, it may provide for compensation through the concerned authorities.
(d): As per the recommendations of NHRC, NIOH has developed control devices for agate, grinding and quarts crushing industries based on the principle of local exhaust ventilation.
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